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1945

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Rural District

OF

Mitford and Launditch, Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM:

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1946

MITFORD & LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1945

Sec A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (in acres), ...	102,371
Population, Census 1931, ...	17,107
,, (R. G's estimate), ...	17,090
Number of inhabited houses, (1945), ...	5,010
Rateable value, ...	£46,756
Sum represented by a penny rate	£211/6/9

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population during the war years varied as follows :

1939	...	16,620	1942	...	17,340
1940	...	16,050	1943	...	17,720
1941	...	16,900	1944	...	17,180

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Totals	M	F
Live Births	Legitimate ...	256	132	124
	Illegitimate ...	46	21	25
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			...	17·7
Still Births	Legitimate ...	5	1	4
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
Rate per 1,000, (Live and Still), births			...	19·4
Deaths		193	93	100
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...			...	11·2

It is satisfactory to record that, for the sixth year in succession, there were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	21

Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)	27
,, Measles, (all ages)	Nil
,, Diarrhœa, (under 2 years of age) ...	2

The Birth Rate, (17·7), is 4·7 lower than in 1944 and 1·6 above the National average, (16·1). This is the highest rate recorded since 1920.

The proportion of illegitimate births has risen from 12% last year to 15% in the year under review.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, four being premature births, giving a rate of 23 per 1,000 live births. This is half the National average and the lowest rate recorded for the District.

The Death Rate, (11·2 per 1,000 pop.), is 0·9 lower than in the previous year and 0·2 below the National average, (11·4).

51% of the deaths were of persons over 70 years of age.

	Total	M	F
70-80	55	27	28
80-90	40	16	24
90-100	5	1	4

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the Rural District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector, who is a certificated Inspector of Meat and other foods, and a Housing Officer.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds and huts provide accommodation for an additional 29. Shortage of nursing and domestic staff has prevented full use being made of the accommodation available. 11 patients from the District were admitted during the Year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

There was a welcome increase in the number of children immunised during the Year, the total number being twice as large as in 1944. Nevertheless, though some 300 babies are born in the District each year, only 167 children in the younger age group were immunised.

The Medical Officer of Health has represented to the District Council that greater advantage would be taken of the Council's scheme if parents were made more fully aware of the fact that young children living at some distance from their medical attendants may be immunised at their homes as well as at their doctor's surgery. It was suggested that the co-operation of Registrars of Births should be sought in handing to each person notifying a birth a leaflet setting out the facilities available under the Council's scheme.

This suggestion has been taken up by the County Authority which is arranging for the printing and distribution of suitable leaflets to Registrars of Births throughout the administrative county.

The position at the end of the Year was as follows :

TOTAL NUMBERS IMMUNISED.

Year	1-5 years	5-15 years
	Totals	Totals
1941	400	2408
1942	197	146
1943	216	108
1944	82	18
1945	167	27
Totals	1062	2707
Estimated child pop. (1945)	1460	2600
Estimated percentage immunised	59	90

Allowance has been made for the number of evacuated children resident in the Area from 1941 onwards.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewer at Scarning, just over the Dereham Urban District boundary, is in a bad state. It serves a block of 24 houses standing on a restricted area. It is proposed to connect up with the Dereham sewer and water mains and convert the existing pail closets to the water carriage system. Plans have been prepared and the co-operation of the Dereham U.D.C. is to be sought.

The sewer at Litcham chokes up badly, mainly with road silt, causing overflow of the sewage into an open pit. Plans are being prepared to improve the whole system and partially reconstruct.

The main drain at North Elmham, which takes sewage as well as surface water, is in a bad state and plans are being prepared for its entire reconstruction.

(2) Closet Accommodation.

Though little progress has been made in conversions to the pail closet system since 1939, 21 conversions to pails were made during the Year. 387 vault privies have been converted to pail closets during the past 17 years.

(3) Scavenging.

The scavenging schemes in operation at Litcham, Shipdham and Lyng are being revised with a view to improvement and better service.

(4) Salvage.

Smaller quantities of waste material were collected this year, the main items being waste paper 14½ tons and bones 13 cwts.

(5) Water Supplies.

Plans for piped supplies to serve the whole Area have been drawn up by Mr. W. H. Bateman, the consulting engineer.

Samples of water taken from the 24 houses just over the Dereham boundary at Scarning revealed that the water supply is contaminated and unfit for domestic use. Plans have been prepared to provide a piped supply by connecting up with the Dereham water mains.

Sec. D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the Year :

(i)	By the Local Authority	...	Nil
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	8

The Rural District Council has provided a total of 383 houses, viz : 145 for Slum Clearance, 41 for relief of Overcrowding, 167 for general needs and 30 houses for Agricultural workers.

6 houses at Elmham and 6 at Shipdham are built to a larger scale. 30 have four bedrooms and the remainder three, all having drainage for sink waste. 48 of the more recently built houses are provided with bathrooms.

All rentals have been increased by 1/9 per week as from Nov. 3rd. 1945, bringing the rentals up to 7/- and 8/-. The houses for agricultural workers are let at 13/- per week.

Housing, (Rural Workers), Act, 1936.

This Act lapsed at the end of September. 16 applications were received during the year and grants made in respect of 8 cottages.

Since the Act came into force, 68 grants have been made by the District Council.

Schools.

Litcham Area School is provided with water closets served by a 4" tube sunk to a depth of 120 ft. One school has the dry-solid system and the remainder pails.

Water supplies are as follows :

Piped supply	1
Draw wells	18
Pump wells	13
Carted from neighbouring source	2

A number of the schools are now provided with canteens from which dinners are served.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) *Milk Supply* :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

Number of registered cow-keepers and purveyors of milk :

(i) Wholesale	269
(ii) Retail	140
Number of registered cowsheds and dairies	301
Number of Accredited Producers ...	57
Number of T.T. Producers	14

There is an increasing tendency for accredited producers to qualify for T.T. licences.

A number of cowsheds have been reconstructed and plans are in preparation for the improvement of several others.

40 samples were taken for the Methylene Blue test during the year, one of which failed.

28 samples were examined for Tubercle bacilli, all of which proved negative.

(*b*) *Meat and other Foods* :—

Meat inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, at the central slaughter-house at Dereham.

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. .	9	5	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	9	2	3
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	65	—	—
Measles	302	2	—
Typhoid	1	1	—
Malaria	2	—	—
Jaundice	3	—	—

Diphtheria : The notified case was a child, aged 9 who had not been immunised. Recovery took place after three months treatment in the County Isolation Hospital.

Typhoid : The infection in the case notified was Para B contracted while nursing in Hospital.

Measles : The outbreak of Measles was widespread, commencing in the second Quarter of the Year, but there were no fatal cases.

Malaria : The infection in both cases was contracted abroad.

AGE GROUPS :—

Age Groups (years)	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	3	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	11	8	9	5	26	2	1	1	—	—	—
Measles	5	18	16	17	25	131	62	20	7	1	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945 :—

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
35 — 45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
55 — 65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	5	2	3	3	4	2	—	—

All the fatal cases had been notified before death.

At the end of the Year there were 134 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 63 respiratory and 71 non-respiratory.

The death rate from Tuberculosis was 2·8 per 1,000 pop., exactly similar to the rate for 1944.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

A few families still remain in the Area and these will be returned to their home towns when accommodation becomes available.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.